

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, AORG

SUBJ: UNRESTRUCTURING: DISCUSSION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL PROPOSALS

REF: USUN 5241

1. AT CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 6, DISCUSSION
FOCUSSED ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ISSUE. WIDE AREA OF
AGREEMENT EMERGED IN GENERAL TERMS:

(A) THAT THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION,
COHERENCE AND MANAGEMENT IS VESTED IN THE SYG UNDER THE CHARTER;

(B) THAT THE FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITY OF THE SENIOR LEVEL
POSITION UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD DERIVE FROM THIS BASIS
AUTHORITY OF THE SYG;

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(C) THAT THE SENIOR LEVEL POSITION SHOULD BE VESTED WITH SYSTEM-
WIDE COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES;

(D) THAT WITHIN THE UNPROPER (E.G., ESA, OTC, UNDP, UNCTAD,
UNIDO, ETC.) THE AUTHORITY OF THE SENIOR LEVEL POSITION COULD
NOT EXCEED THE AUTHORITY OF THE SYG AND IN PRINCIPLE SHOULD
BE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ALL ELEMENTS (E.G., NO

DISTINCTION AS REGARDS ITS AUTHORITY OVER ESA AND UNCTAD). SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE IN THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THESE ELEMENTS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE NOT DISCUSSED IN DEPTH AND REPRESENT AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT:

(A) TITLE: THE G-77 ARE INSISTING ON THE TITLE "DIRECTOR GENERAL" WHICH THEY VIEW AS CRITICAL TO GIVING THE INCUMBENT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXERCISING SYSTEMWIDE INFLUENCE. THE EC-9 HAVE RESERVED ON THIS (WITH FRENCH PRIVATELY FAVORING THE TITLE OF "SPECIAL ASSISTANT").

(B) RESOURCES: G-77 INSISTS THAT THE NEW OFFICE BE GIVEN ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE. EC-9 HAVE RESERVED ON THIS BUT, SPECIFICALLY, HAVE ONLY INDICATED THEIR FIRM OPPOSITION TO CREATING A NEW LARGE STAFF.

(C) MODE OF APPOINTMENT: AGAIN, THE G-77 SEE CONFIRMATION BY THE GA AS BESTOWING ON THE INCUMBENT ADEQUATE AUTHORITY IN HIS SYSTEMWIDE DEALINGS. EC-9 HAVE OPPOSED GA CONFIRMATION WITHOUT GIVING A FULL EXPLANATION.

(D) FUNCTIONS/MANDATE: WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF BASIC AGREEMENT INDICATED PARA 1 ABOVE, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO SPECIFY IN ANY DETAIL THE FUNCTIONS/ MANDATE OF THE PROPOSED NEW POSITION.
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3. THE DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WAS ESSENTIALLY A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EC-9 AND THE G-77. CANADA AND NORWAY INTERVENED ONLY TO REITERATE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE JAMAICAN DRAFT AND THEIR HOPE THAT THE MANDATE OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD BE MADE BROADER AND MORE EXPLICIT. THE CANADIAN REP SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT WITH REGARD TO THE UN PROPER, "DIRECTION" BE A PART OF THE MANDATE. US REP DID NOT INTERVENE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE TRICKY ELEMENT IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE IS TO DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UN PROPER AND THE PROPOSED DG. THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT HE SHOULD STAND IN EQUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM HIDES THE FACT THAT THE SYG HAS BEEN UNEVEN IN HIS DEROGATION OF AUTHORITY (E.G., UNCTAD IS IN FACT MORE INDEPENDENT OF THE SYG UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM THAN SAY ESA) AND IN SOME CASES THIS DEROGATION OF AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN LEGAL STATUS IN UN RESOLUTIONS. THE G-77 OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO PROTECT THE RELATIVE AUTONOMY OF UNCTAD AND UNIDO, THE EC-9 THE RELATIVE AUTHORITY OF ESA AND UNDP. GIVEN THIS, WE SUSPECT THAT ONLY A GENERAL FORMULATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE DG

WITH REGARD TO THE UN PROPER WILL BE POSSIBLE AND
CONVERSELY THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO EXPLICITLY PROTECT
ANY ELEMENT OF THE SYSTEM IN THIS TEXT.

5. ON THE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT, MISSION IS INCLINED TO
ACCEPT THE G-77 PRESENTATION. OUR CONCERN WITH THE TITLE,
MODE OF APPOINTMENT, AND SUPPORTING RESOURCES WOULD BE
TO ALLOW THE INCUMBENT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXERCISING
SYSTEMWIDE INFLUENCE. IN OUR VIEW THESE ARE SECONDARY TO
THE MORE CRITICAL QUESTION OF MANDATE AND AUTHORITY.

6. ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY STATED BY ANY OF THE PARTIES TO
THE DISCUSSION, IT SEEMS TO US THAT BOTH TEXTS ASSIGN
ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION TO THE SYG. WE ARE HOPING TO TOUCH
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BASE WITH SYG WALDHEIM TO GET HIS VIEWS ON THE ALTERNATE
DRAFTS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.
LEONARD

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